

Speech of the UN special coordinator in Lebanon Ms. Pernille Kardel, in the launching ceremony of the “Lebanese Army Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement” Monroe Hotel, 29/1/2019

LAF Commander General Joseph Aoun

Colleagues, friends

Thank you so much for the invitation to be here today. This is a very important day. I think this is a very important document. This is a very important event. And I am also particularly pleased to be here today as it is my almost last day as acting special coordinator and I couldn't ask for more than to be in an event where we can praise the work of LAF. It is an impressive institution and thank you for your past help for me while I have been here. Thank you.

Today's launch of the Lebanese Armed Forces code of conduct of human rights to me is also an intangible demonstration of the will of the LAF and of the Lebanese authorities to deliver on the commitments made in Rome in March last year. This is an important step towards an increased respect of human rights and accountability and to maintain human rights into law enforcement tasks performed by LAF. As acknowledged in LAF's 2018 to 2022 capabilities development plan, this code of conduct is vital to enhance LAF's accountability, especially towards, as we just heard, vulnerable groups. Therefore, the implementation of the code of conduct is necessary in itself, but it is also necessary as we wait that the national human rights institutions become operational. Allow me here to reiterate our appeal that the national human rights institutions be adequately resourced in order to function effectively and independently.

I am also pleased that the code of conduct is the result of good cooperation between LAF and the office of the UN High commissioner for Human Rights. The UN family remains committed to continue supporting LAF as the only legitimate Armed Forces in Lebanon as we work together to build up the institutional capacities of the Lebanese security institutions and consolidate human rights and rule of Law.

Excellencies, colleagues

Commander Aoun and many of you here know how much I have enjoyed visiting LAF's outposts in Lebanon over the past year. I have often emphasized, both in Lebanon and to international partners, including in the UN Security Council that LAF achievements are role models in so many ways, of course with the strong support nationally and internationally. Once again, I applaud LAF's dedication and its commitment to extend state authority to protect Lebanon's sovereignty.

Let me conclude by again congratulating you for today's launch on this very important code of conduct and to wish you all the best as you strive to implement this very important code of conduct, fully, and again thank you so much for all your support and friendship during my time in here.